

**REMARKS**

The drawings are amended, per the attached, to overcome a few noted informalities contained therein. The accompanying new set of Replacement Sheets of formal drawing(s) incorporate all of the requested drawing amendment(s). If any further amendment to the drawings is believed necessary, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative of the Applicant to discuss the same.

Claims 14-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for the reasons noted in the official action. The inadequate written description rejection is acknowledged and respectfully traversed in view of the following remarks.

The Applicant has amended the claims in the above manner and believes these amended claims describe the invention in such a way so as to enable one skilled in the art to make and/or use the invention. Below, the applicant refers the related figures and disclosure in discussing the basis for the subject matter as claimed.

In relation to claim 14, Fig. 1 shows in detail the "locking device for the fixation of a lid (1) in an opening of a pressure container with at least two locking segments (5) displaceable at right angles to the axis of the opening..." The axis of the opening is designated by the vertical line of alternating dots and lines that passes centrally, axially through the actuating rod 3 the lid 1 and the brim 8 of the opening of the container. The locking segments (5) are, as seen in the left and right hand sides of Fig. 1, displaceable between the axis and the brim (8) of the opening.

With regard to the limitation of "...which segments (5) bear protrusions (6) and groove-like recesses along their circumference, which in the locked position cooperate with recesses (7) and protrusions along the brim (8) of the opening..." this feature is also clearly visible in Fig. 1 on the left side. It is hereby noted that the groove-like recesses between the protrusions 6 on the segments 5 similarly cooperate with the protrusions between the recesses 7 along the brim 8 of the opening in the locked position on the left side of Fig. 1.

Next, with regard to the limitation of "... the displacement actuator of the segments (5) is linked to the segments (5) and to at least one point of application that is on the lid (1) or on a member (3) connected to the lid (1)...", as can be seen in Fig. 1, the displacement actuators are arranged between a member 3 that is connected to the lid 1 and the segments 5. A change in length of the displacement actuators, as seen between the right and left sides of the figure, thereby moves the segments 5 while the lid 1 stays stationary.

Finally, with regard to the limitation of "the segments (5) that are arranged in the direction of the circumference of the lid (1) are pivotably supported on the lid (1) by a swivel arm (16), separate from the displacement actuator, being interposed, which swivel arm (16) in turn is pivotably connected to the segments (5)" the arrangement of the segments 5 in the direction of the circumference of the lid 1 is shown in Fig. 2. At the center of each segment 5 the swivel arm 16 is pivotably connected to the segments, although in Fig. 2 without a reference number, 16 is shown. The swivel arm 16 supporting the segments 5 is shown in greater detail in Figs. 3, 4 and 5. Turning the pivot axle 14 shown in Fig. 3 counter-clockwise therefore moves the segment 5 radially outwards and vice versa. The displacement actuator and the swivel arm 16 therefore work together to radially move the segments 5 and thus seal the lid on the pressure container.

Next, claim 15 recites the limitation of "the displacement actuator of the segments 5 is each made up of at least one linear actuator 4 per segment 5", which are clearly shown in Figs. 1 and 2 the arrangement of the displacement actuator. This claims further recites the limitation that the displacement actuator consists of a linear actuator 4.

Now with regard to claim 16, "the points of application of the displacement actuator on the segments (5) and/or on the lid (1) or the member (3) connected with the lid (1) are designed as hinge bearings (10,11) comprising bearing pins being pivotable about at least one axis." These claimed features are shown in Figs. 1 and 2. The bearing pins are shown as small circles in the top view the drawings. The axis that they are pivotable about is thus in the line of sight.

Now regarding claim 17 which recites that "the swivel arm (16) is connected to the lid (1) via a rotary or swivel drive (33)." This feature is depicted in more detail in Fig. 3 and is clearly workable by a person skilled in the art.

Next, claim 18 recites that "the pivotable support of the segments (5) on the lid (1) comprises at least one pivotable shaft (15) or pivot axle (14) extending at right angles to the displacement movement of the segments (5)." As depicted in Figs. 3-5, The pivotable shaft (15) or the pivot axle (14) () extend at right angles to the displacement movement of the segments and in the embodiment shown in fig. 3, 4 and 5 they extend parallel to the axis of the opening.

Turning now to claim 19, the recited feature that "the segments (5) are connected to the lid (1) to be adjustable in an in axial direction of the pivot axis (14) in the height direction" is shown in Fig. 5. The segments 5 are adjustable in height direction along the dotted pivot axis

14. Thus the lid 1 can be moved to or from the opening of the container, whereby the segments 5 secure the lid to the brim 8 of the opening and thus the lid to the container.

With regard to claim 20 which recites that "the axle (15) or swivel axis (14) is supported on the lid (1) on at least one bearing (22) being moveable at right angles to the swivel axis (14) and fixable in this adjusted position." This feature is for further adapting the locking device to containers with different opening sizes, as the swivel arm 16 can only move the segments 5 radially outwards to a certain extent.

Claim 21 recites that "the axle (15) or swivel axis (14) carries a bushing (17) parallel to the axis, in which the segments (5) are pivotable and in direction of the axis height adjustably fixable." The bushing 17 can be seen in Fig. 5. The bushing is fixed to the axle 15 or the swivel axis 14 via two swivel arms 16.

Turning now to the limitations of claim 22 in which "the segments (5) are supported pivotably and height adjustable on the bushing (17) with in axial direction operative springs (20) being interposed." These limitations of the axial operative springs 20 are similarly shown in Fig. 5 and serve to secure the segments to the bushing.

With regard to claim 23 "the segments (5) comprise at least two recesses or bearing eyes for the reception of locking members or locking pins" are not necessarily shown in detail, however the Applicant asserts that a person skilled in the art should be able to make and/or use the invention none the less.

Claim 24 includes the limitations of "the lid (1) and the segments (5) linked to the lid (1) are mounted to a support (28) to be pivotable about an axis intersecting or crossing the axis (30) of the opening, the support (28) together with the lid (1) being pivotable about an axis (29) extending outside of the opening and perpendicular to the axis (30) of the opening." These features are shown in fig. 7 and serve to hold the lid in place, while locking the segments. As well it facilitates the removal of the lid.

Claim 25 recites the feature that "the lid (1) is connected to the support (28) by a spring rod (31) having an adjustable position and being excentrically arranged between the lid (1) and the support (28)" which are detailed in Fig. 7.

Finally, the limitations of claim 26 in which "the actuating members (9) of a position switch (26) are provided, which actuating members (9) immerse in annular grooves (7) at right angles to the brim (8) of the opening" are shown in Fig. 6. This feature is provided to determine whether the lid is safely locked or not. A position switch 26 as it is shown in Fig. 6 is know to a person skilled in the art.

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The Applicant respectfully avers that the claims describe the invention in such a way so as to enable one skilled in the art to make and/or use the invention. The Applicant therefore respectfully requests removal of the current 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph rejections.

The amended and the new claims of the application are believed to clearly describe the and recite the subject matter believed to be part of the invention.

If any further amendment to this application is believed necessary to advance prosecution and place this case in allowable form, the Examiner is courteously solicited to

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the raised rejection(s) should be withdrawn and this application is now placed in a condition for allowance. Action to that end, in the form of an early Notice of Allowance, is courteously solicited by the Applicant at this time.

The Applicant respectfully requests that any outstanding objection(s) or requirement(s), as to the form of this application, be held in abeyance until allowable subject matter is indicated for this case.

In the event that there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge the same or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account (Account No. 04-0213).

Respectfully submitted,



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## ANNOTATED DRAWING

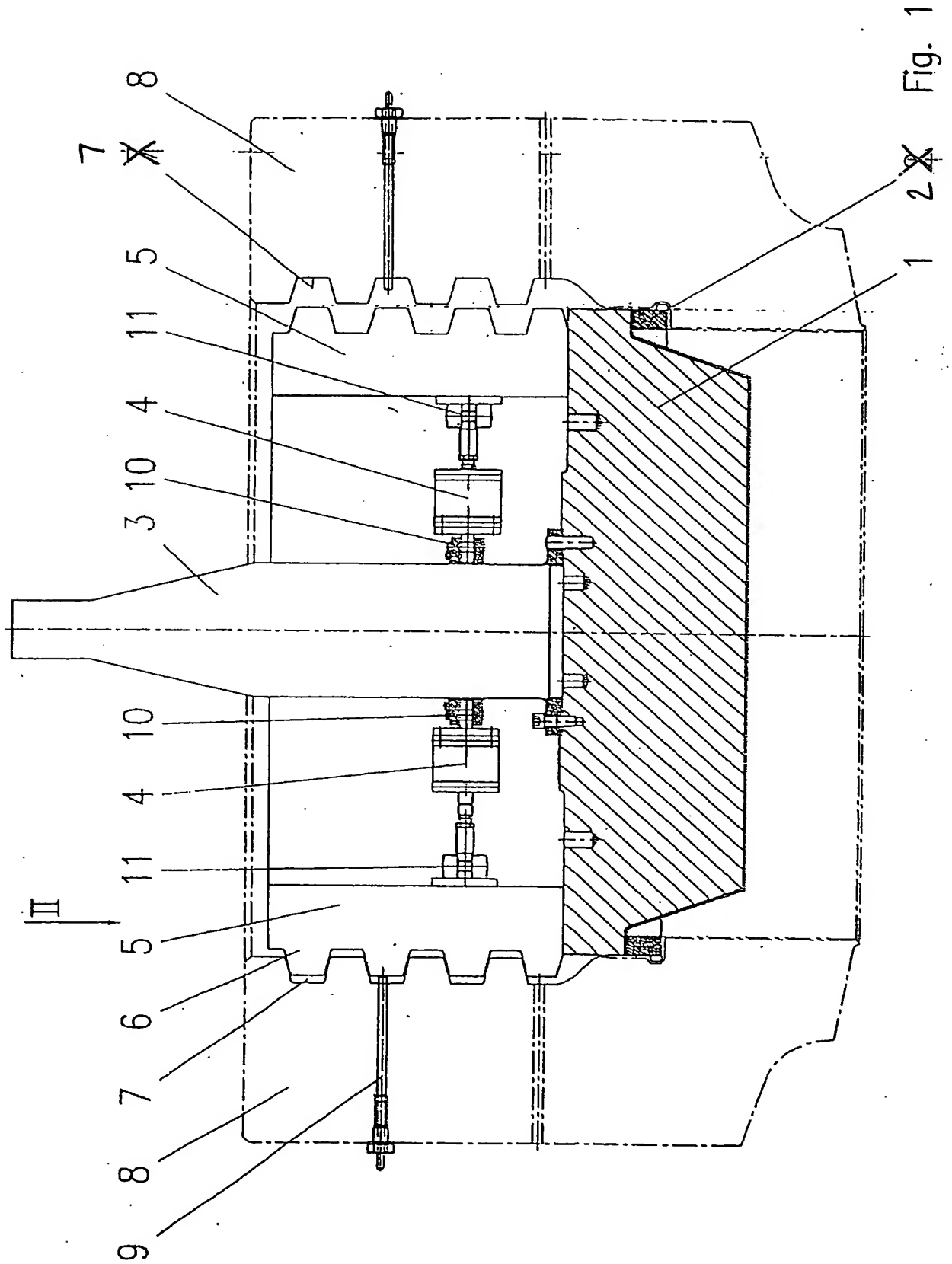
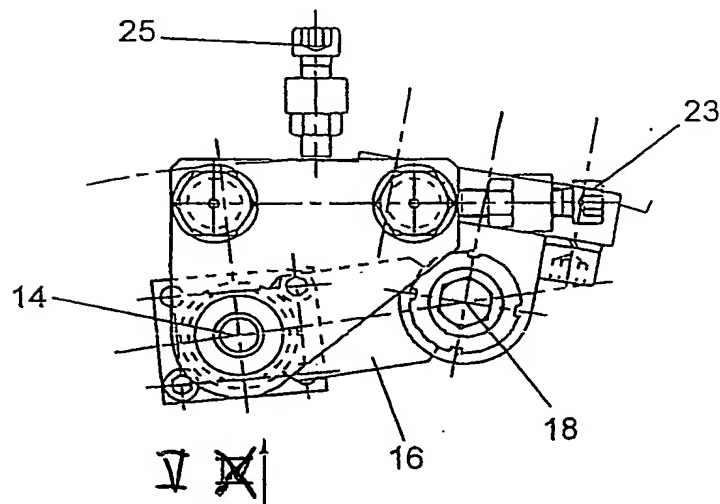
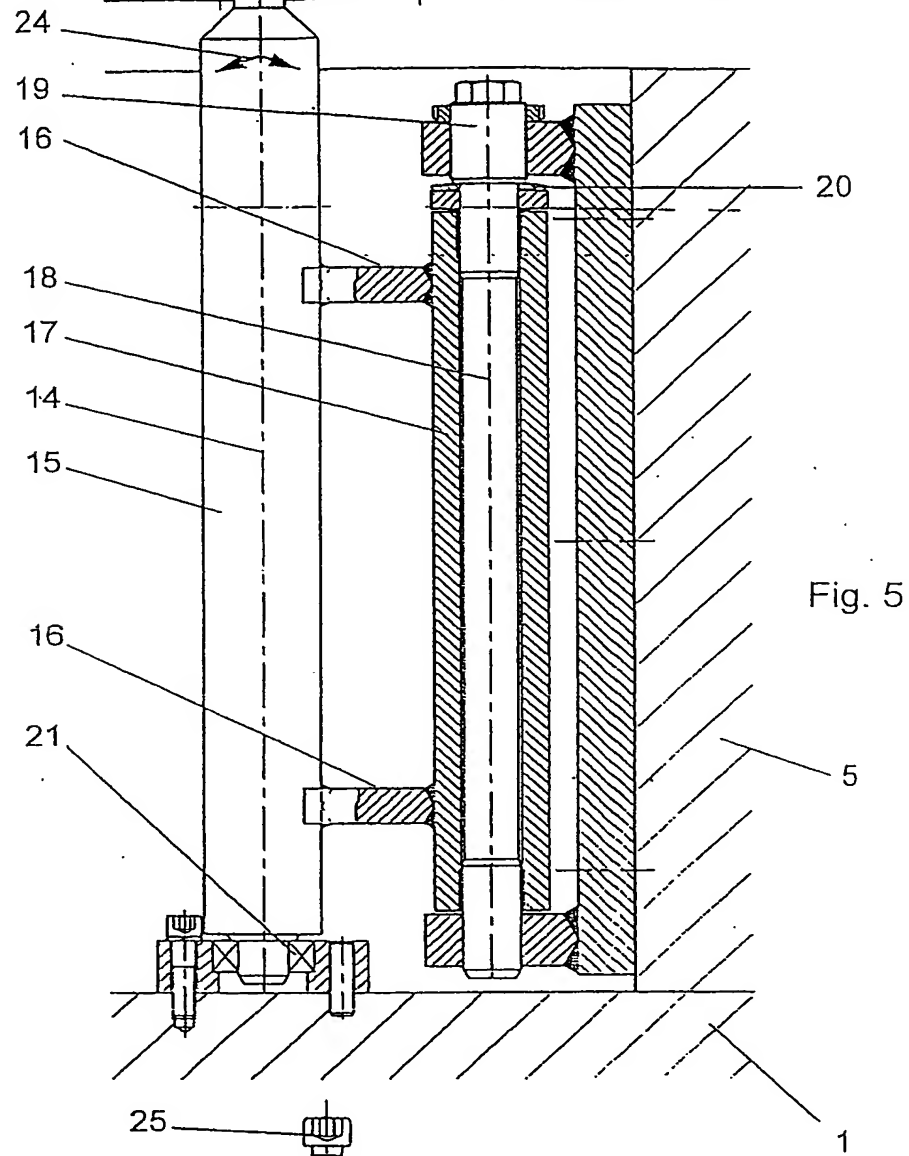
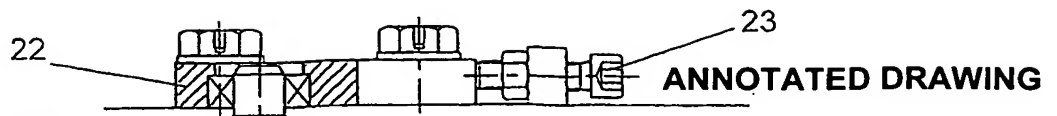


Fig. 1



## ANNOTATED DRAWING

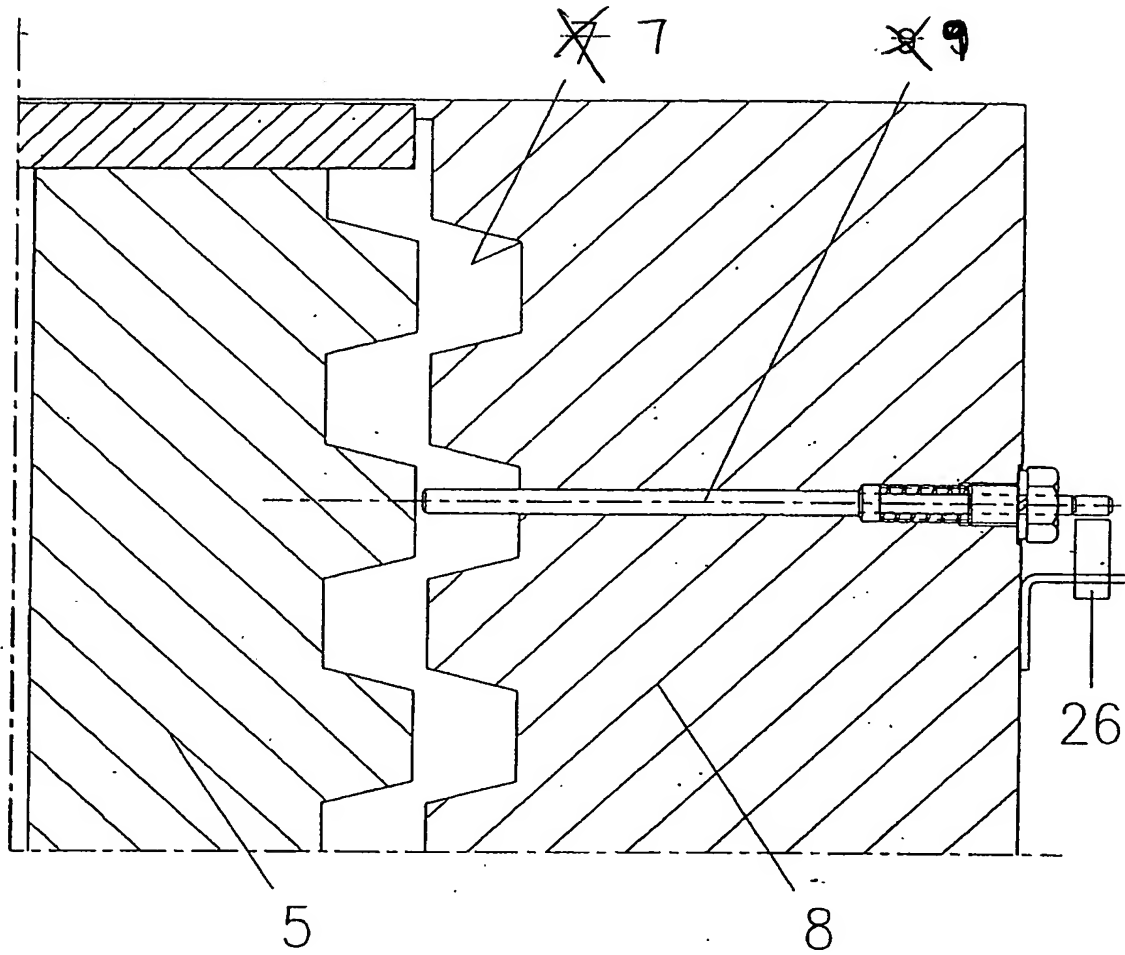


Fig. 6